

AUSTRALONEMA FROM THE SILURIAN OF THE YASS BASIN, NEW SOUTH WALES. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 45(2): 252. 2000:- The gyronematine gastropod *Australonema* Tassell has hitherto not been recorded from the Silurian of Australia despite its abundance in Australian Early Devonian gastropod faunas (Tassell, 1980) and its presence in the Silurian elsewhere (Gubanov & Yochelson, 1994). *Australonema* recovered from the Barrandella Shales of the Yass Basin NSW extends the range of the genus within Australia. It confirms that Silurian *Australonema* belong to basic stock of Gyronematinae, whose plesiomorphic state is characterised by one order of cords, lacking nodes. The specimen here described was recovered from the Barrandella Shales, Hattons Corner near Yass NSW. Recent work, summarised by Strusz (1989: 17), assigned a Ludlovian (Gorstian) age to the Barrandella Shale. This occurrence establishes the presence of basal stock of this subfamily in Australia prior to a significant Devonian diversification of gyronematines.

Systematic Palaeontology
 ARCHAEOGASTROPODA
 TROCHINA Cox & Knight, 1960
 PLATYCERATOIDEA Hall, 1859
 HOLOPEIDAE Wenz, 1938
 GYRONEMATINAE Knight, 1956

***Australonema* sp.**
 (Fig.1)

Material. QMF40825. Collected A.J. Wright., Barrandella Shales, Hattons Corner, Yass, NSW.

Description. Large turbiniform shell 41mm high, 33mm wide, anomphalous, sutures impressed. Shell profile well rounded, meeting suture at an angle of approximately 15° from horizontal. Mid-whorl at periphery. Upper whorl face bears 4 strong cords which lack nodes. Lower whorl face with at least 1 cord, but imperfectly preserved lower face ornament otherwise. Growth lines are fine and numerous, orthocline to very slightly opisthocline. Protoconch unknown.

Remarks. The specimen is noteworthy but I am reluctant to erect a new species based on a single occurrence. *Australonema australis* (Etheridge Jr, 1890) from the Lilydale Limestone has more numerous spiral cords. The specimen is closest to *Australonema* sp. A of Tassell (1980) from the Silurian of Dudley, UK, but it also has a greater number of cords on the whorl face.

Acknowledgements

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Literature Cited

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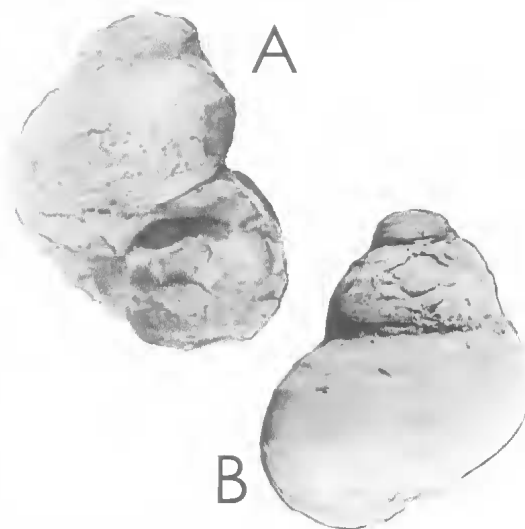


FIG. 1. *Australonema* sp. QMF40825. $\times 1$; A, apertural view; B, side view.